PROJECT TITLE : Reconstituted Tobacco

PERIOD COVERED : July 25th - September 26th, 1980

WRITTEN BY : P. Karbacher

MONIQUE/RCB

Equipment modification (Ref. 1)

All equipment modifications planned for the summer shut down were finished on schedule and the production resumed on August 4th, 1980.
The new Moyno pumps work well and the separate head tank for ammonia provides an exact volume per batch and its level is easily adjustable.

Refiner gaskets

A study is under way to find a solution to extend the life of the refiner gaskets.

Doctor knife

One doctor knife support bracket made from aluminium to reduce weight for easier handling was installed. As it performed successfully a second one was ordered.

Building

The painting of the walls was finished and parts of the ceiling were insulated.
During the summer months some excessive ambient air temperatures in the working area were experienced.
A study was initiated to equip the Luwa installation with an air cooler.

Feedstock

A new lot of stems, number 7970 was used for production. Some Indian OTMs were introduced in addition to the FTR materials.

Feeding system, stems silo-slurry mixer.

Two breakdowns occured with the screw conveyor for stems to the slurry mixer. A total of 3 days of production were lost for repair.

Roll coater, rubber roll

We observed random blockings of the main drive system for the

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roll coater. As the rubber roll is pressed on the moving steel-belt, stopping the latter leads to a deformation of the rubber roll if this not immediately lifted off by the operator.
The flattening of the roll then causes the stripes in the sheet.
The reasons for these blockings are not known yet but we suppose that failures in the electronic motor control system may be caused by excessive ambient temperatures or insufficient cooling of the control box.
A safety system was developed and installed which automatically lifts the roll off the steelbelt in case of stops.

The peripheral speed of the rubber roll was increased from 76 to 120 m/min. Our target is to achieve 200 m/min. Therefore some modifications of the drive system have to be carried out, in particular the belt pulleys of the gearboxes and the motor drive.

Dust sieving trial with OTMs from India (Ref. 2)

With regard to the future use of one lot of Indian OTMs in the Monique/RCB feedstock in addition to the FTR material an industrial sieving trial was conducted on September 8th, 1980. About 1'000 kg of this material were sieved on the Monique installation and the following distribution was found :

> 80 mesh	: 62%
< 80 mesh, > 100 mesh	: 20%
< 100 mesh	: 18%

Product utilization

A Marlboro trial blend was prepared containing 5.1% of current production Monique/RCB instead of 3.4% as used at present.
The cigarettes were evaluated by panel A and found to be different in taste from the control. The first five puffs of the trial cigarettes showed a more aggressive taste.
On this base the incorporation of 5.1% of Monique/RCB was not accepted (Ref. 3).
The smoke analysis of the two samples did not show significant differences.

In order to decrease the stock level about 70 tons of Monique/RCB product were transferred to PMH.

Monique/RCB trials (Ref. 4)

Two trials were carried out using a totally different feedstock composition established together with the leaf department.

100% sheet cigarettes were hand-made and will be evaluated by Panel A as soon as possible.

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REFERENCES

Ref. 1 : Rapport mensuel, août 1980, F. Boichat

Ref. 2 : Essais de tamisage poussière d'Inde, P. Karbacher, 9 septembre 1980

Ref. 3 : Test de dégustation No. 283 du 19 septembre 1980

Ref. 4 : Letter from P. Karbacher to J.-P. Caccivio, September 10th, 1980.

PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

P. Karbacher

KPA/sde
September 30th, 1980

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